

Message Text

SECRET

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

SNM-02 DEAE-00 JUSE-00 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /049 W

----- 111701

R 171#)5Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6092

S E C R E T SAIGON 14901

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, VS

SUBJ: NARCOTICS: AIR AMERICA

REF: STATE 156521

1. AIR AMERICAN CONTRACT FOR VIETNAM CONTAINS NO REFERENCE TO NARCOTICS INSPECTION OF AIR AMERICA PASSENGERS.

HOWEVER, A PROGRAM OF INSPECTION WAS INSTITUTED 21 FEB 73.

INSPECTION APPLIED ONLY TO AIR AMERICA AT SAIGON AND AT THE FOUR REGIONAL CAPITALS. ALL OTHER INTERNAL AND INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WAS NOT CONTROLLED. INSPECTION WAS CARRIED OUT BY AIR AMERICA EMPLOYEES WITHOUT AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT POLICE FUNCTIONS

UNDER GVN LAW, BUT VIETNAMESE POLICE WERE PRESENT TO MAKE ARRESTS IF NECESSARY. NO NARCOTICS WERE FOUND. MEMBERS OF THE MISSION WHO TRAVEL MOST DOUBTED THAT THE CONTROLS WERE EFFECTIVE. THEY WERE A MINOR NUISANCE TO TRAVELERS AND TO AIR OPERATIONS, AND IN SOME CASES AN EMBARRASSMENT, AS WHEN AN EFFORT WAS MADE TO SEARCH A FOREIGN MILITARY ATTACHE ON AN INTERNAL FLIGHT, OR WHEN VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS WERE SUBJECTED TO AMERICAN SEARCH.

2. AIR AMERICA SERVICE IS ESSENTIAL TO THE MISSION BUT THE GVN IS SENSITIVE TO IT AS A RIVAL TO AIR VIETNAM AND OTHER PUBLIC TRANSPORT. THERE WAS SOME CONCERN THAT THE POSSIBLE AFFRONT TO GVN SOVEREIGNTY IN THE CONTROL SYSTEM WOULD FOCUS THIS OPPOSITION. THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE VIETNAMESE POLICE HAS SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE TO COOPERATE WITH THE PROGRAM. HOWEVER, IT IS HIS EMPHATIC VIEW THAT WITH MANY FORMS OF INTERNAL TRANSPORTATION
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AVAILABLE, UNLIKE THE SITUATION IN LAOS, THE CONTROLS ARE
USELESS HERE. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES SUSPENDED
THE CONTROLS JUNE 30, 73, AND THE MISSION DOES NOT AT THIS TIME
INTEND TO REINSTATE THEM, BUT WILL KEEP THE SITUATION UNDER
CLOSE REVIEW.
MARTIN

SECRET

NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, DRUG TRAFFIC
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON14901
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MARTIN
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730867/aaaajxzd.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Transfer Date:
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Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980311
Subject: NARCOTICS: AIR AMERICA
TAGS: SNAR, VS, AIR AMERICA
To: STATE
Type: TE
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